

SECTION V

NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

HUD requires jurisdictions receiving funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to discuss priority non-housing community development needs and objectives for which related activities would be eligible for CDBG assistance even if there are no plans to use CDBG funds for such purposes. It should be noted that the City has traditionally used the majority of its CDBG monies for housing and housing-related activities and has funded non-housing community development initiatives with funds from other sources. The City considers the following non-housing community development needs and objectives to be of primary concern for the period covered by the Consolidated Plan. Activities undertaken to support non-housing community development objectives are expected to serve persons with incomes at or below HUD's moderate-income limits, persons with special needs and/or persons in predominantly low- and moderate-income areas of the City.

As required by HUD, the City has completed Table 2B, which identifies priorities for the use of federal funds to address non-housing community development needs, and Table 2C, which includes information on specific objectives established in connection with non-housing community development needs. These tables and any related information required by HUD are available for review in Appendix II.

V.A Economic Development

Economic Development Needs

Low- and moderate-income persons often lack access to sufficient job training and to employment opportunities that could result in increased income and improved quality of life. Private-sector job creation efforts in low-income neighborhoods often result in the need to prepare a qualified work force in those neighborhoods, and the public sector plays a role in this process. The City of Alexandria provides the infrastructure, services and other economic development incentives to attract businesses that will create jobs in these neighborhoods, and offers job training and employment placement services to enable individuals and families to achieve financial independence.

The City's economic development efforts are directed toward building a stable economy and a diversified business base capable of supporting job growth, commercial development, professional and retail trades and tourism activities that contribute to an expanded tax base. See also "Employment Services" in Section V.B below.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Economic Development Needs

During this Consolidated Plan period, the City's goal is to improve Alexandria's economy and create jobs through a variety of economic development activities. The following strategies will be implemented:

- City government and/or private entities will market the City to major corporations and employers;
- City government and/or private entities will continue development and revitalization activities in target areas determined by the City such as the Enterprise Zone and the northern Route 1 corridor; and
- City government will support activities designed to increase job opportunities for low- and moderate-income City residents. It is anticipated that job training will be provided to over 2,000 citizens per year, including persons with incomes at or below HUD's moderate income limits.

V.B Public Services

The City addresses public service needs without regard to the geographic location of persons requiring assistance. These types of non-housing supportive services are most often utilized by households with incomes at or below HUD's moderate-income limits.

V.B.1 Senior Services

Senior Services Needs

Elderly persons require supportive services, including assistance with grocery shopping, food preparation, house cleaning, laundry and personal care, to prevent avoidable institutionalization. The City's general goal for senior services during the Consolidated Plan period is to address the health and welfare needs of Alexandria's elderly residents, with the objective of maintain or improving the physical and/or psychosocial functioning of 450 elderly and frail elderly City residents per year.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Senior Services Needs

The following strategies will be implemented:

- City government and/or private entities will continue to provide an array of supportive services for elderly and frail elderly City residents, including transportation services, congregate and home-delivered meals, companion aid, case management, adult protective services, senior centers and adult day healthcare facilities.

V.B.2 Services for Persons with Disabilities

Transportation and employment preparation and placement services are primary needs for persons with disabilities. Information on employment services is provided in Section V.B.6. below.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Supportive Service Needs for Persons with Disabilities

The following strategies will be implemented to promote the City's general goal of addressing the supportive services needs of City residents with disabilities:

- City government and/or private entities will continue to administer and coordinate transportation service programs for persons with disabilities, including the provision of an estimated 55,000 taxi and wheelchair accessible van trips each year through paratransit programs; and
- City government will continue to provide employment services for persons with disabilities

V.B.3 Youth Services

The Office of Youth Services in the City's Department of Human Services (DHS) plans, coordinates and advocates for services to promote positive social development, prevent delinquency, and promote child safety among Alexandria's children and youth. This Office also provides staff support for the Youth Policy Commission and Youth Council, both aimed at assuring that needs of the City youth are met in a comprehensive fashion.

Some City youth also require treatment for mental illness to improve their behavior and adjustment. Children with serious emotional disturbance are children in emotional distress whose behaviors cause much pain to their families and to society as a whole. Some of these youth are disruptive in school; others are difficult to manage in the classroom and in the community. Others are seriously depressed, psychotic or suicidal and require psychiatric hospitalization or other residential placement, while others are abused and emotionally neglected.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Supportive Service Needs of Youth

The following strategies will be implemented to promote the City's general goal of promoting positive development and preventing delinquency among youth in the City.

- City government and/or private entities will continue to administer programs to promote positive development and prevent delinquency among youth.

V.B.4 Substance Abuse Services

The ACSB provides a range of services for persons with substance abuse problems ranging from counseling to a residential detoxification program. The majority of individuals served in substance abuse treatment programs are within lower-income categories.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Substance Abuse Service Needs

The following strategies will be implemented to promote the City's general goal of providing services to address the needs of persons with substance abuse problems.

- City government and/or private entities will continue to administer programs to treat substance abuse problems for City residents.

V.B.5 Child Care Services

Lower-income families often experience problems accessing quality, affordable child care. Such families require assistance with locating and securing quality child care, including financial assistance with child care costs. The general availability of quality child care can be promoted through the provision of training and technical support to child care service providers.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Child Care Service Needs

The following strategies will be implemented to promote the City's general goal of promoting access to quality child care services for lower-income families:

- City government and/or private entities will continue to implement child care service programs intended to increase access to quality child care for lower-income households, including programs that offer financial assistance with child care costs.

V.B.6 Employment Services

Households with incomes below the federal poverty line require assistance to improve their economic status through education, job training and job placement, and other support services.

Five-Year Strategies to Address Employment Service Needs

During the Consolidated Plan period the City will continue to provide employment services for lower-income City households. The following strategy will be implemented:

- City government will support activities designed to increase job opportunities for low- and moderate-income City residents.

V.C Public Facilities

Public facilities needs for low- and moderate-income persons, persons with special needs and areas of the City with high concentrations of households with incomes at or below HUD's moderate-income limits will be addressed as follows.

V.C.1 Facilities for Senior Programs

Five-Year Strategies Related to Facilities for Senior Services

The following strategies will be implemented to promote the City's general goal of maintaining and providing facilities that offer space for a variety of senior programs and activities.

- Subject to available resources, City government will provide funds to support the renovation and provision of facilities for senior services.

V.C.2 Parks and Recreational Facilities

Five-Year Strategies for Parks and Recreational Facilities

The following strategies will be implemented in order to maintain and provide recreational facilities to serve households with incomes at or below HUD's moderate-income limits and/or persons with special needs.

- Subject to available resources, City government will provide funds to support the renovation and operation of parks and recreational facilities in areas of the City with high concentrations of households with incomes at or below HUD's moderate-income limits; and
- Subject to available resources, City government will provide funds to support accessibility modifications at park play areas to meet Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act requirements.

V.C.3 Infrastructure Improvements

Infrastructure improvements include street and sidewalk, as well as storm and sanitary sewer improvements in lower income areas of the City, as well as the installation of wheelchair ramps at intersections throughout the City to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

Five-Year Strategies for Infrastructure Improvements

The following strategies will be implemented with regard to infrastructure improvements for lower-income households and/or persons with special needs:

- Subject to available resources, City government will undertake infrastructure improvements in areas of the City with high concentrations of households with incomes at or below HUD's moderate-income limits; and
- To address requirements related to wheelchair ramps at intersections established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), City government will make the installation of access ramps automatic whenever curbs or sidewalks throughout the City are replaced or installed.

V.D Other Non-Housing Community Development Needs

Code Enforcement - The City's Code Enforcement Bureau undertakes aggressive monitoring of properties throughout the City for compliance with building, fire and maintenance code. For properties that have been deemed detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the community, the City works with property owners to correct deficiencies or, if necessary, intervenes to abate the violations, placing a lien against the property for associated costs or recouping associated costs through the sale of the property.

Historic Preservation - It is anticipated that with households with incomes at or below moderate-income limits that own properties in historic districts of the City will require assistance with repair and renovation needs. On average, one such property per year has been identified.